hitoshi ashinano presents "kotonoba-drive"

route 21
[HOTPOT NIGHT]

When someone is heading somewhere fun, they walk with a light spring in their step.

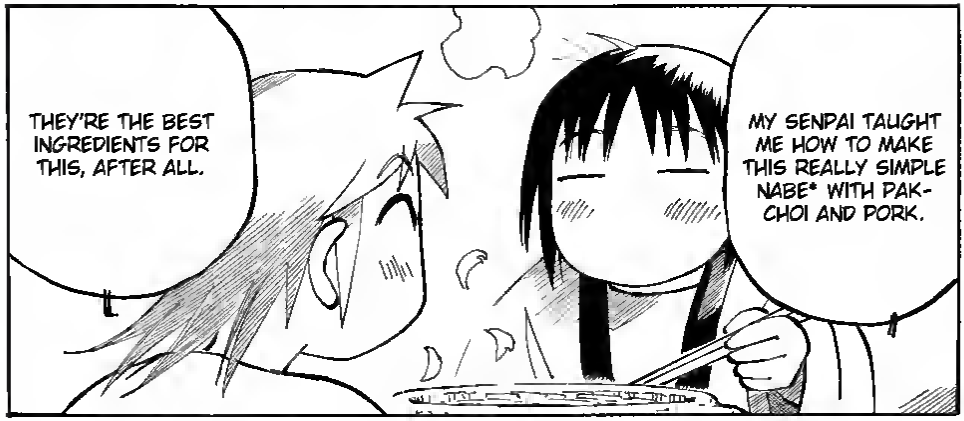
Kotonoba Drive

SHE SPENT THE SUMMER WITH TWO HARUKAS.

TANKOBON 2 IS OUT AND SELLING WELL!

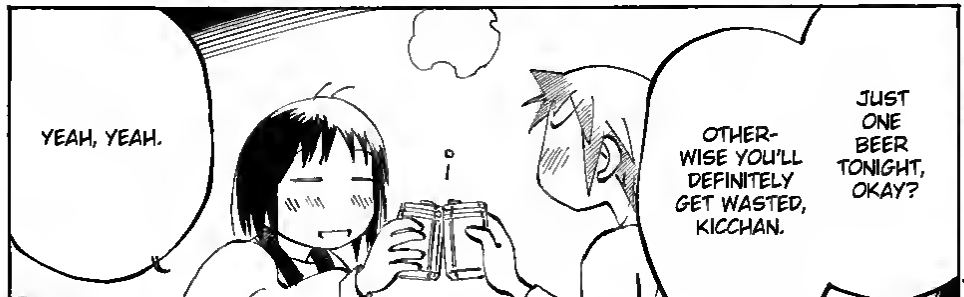
Hmm... this friend, I'm sure we've seen her somewhere before!

*PONZU = A CITRUS SAUCE USED FOR DIPPING.

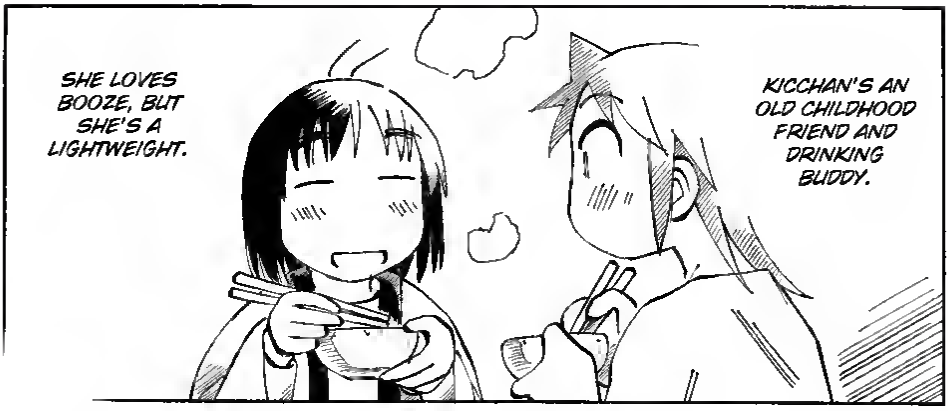

MY SENPAI TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE THIS REALLY SIMPLE NABE* WITH PAK-CHOI AND PORK.
THEY'RE THE BEST INGREDIENTS FOR THIS, AFTER ALL.

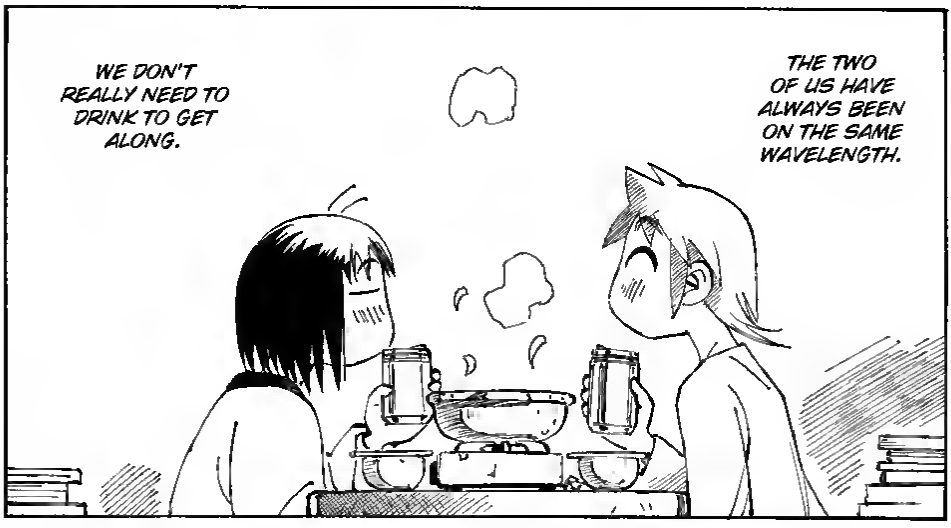
2

*NABE/NABEMONO = JAPANESE HOT POT CUISINE, POPULAR IN WINTER.

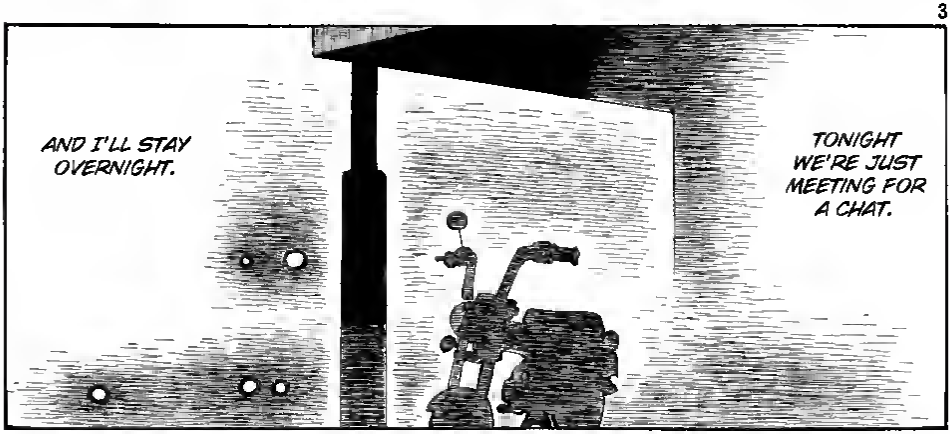


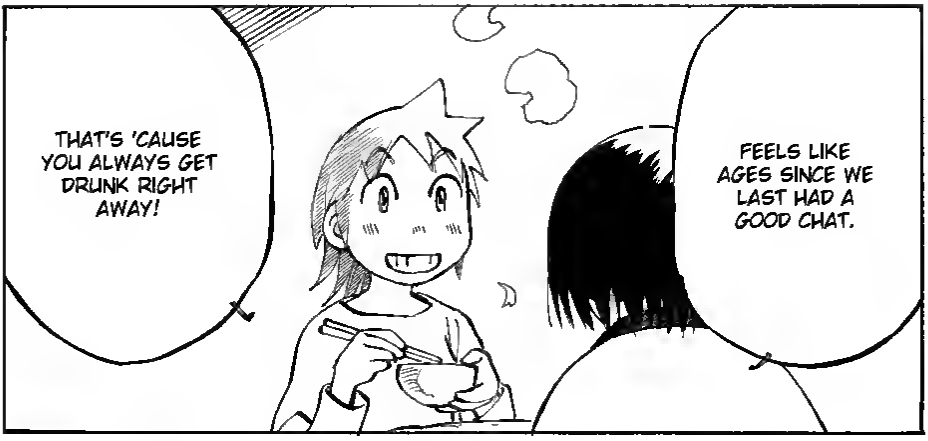
Answer: she's a local friend. So far she's only been in route 15: [The White Snake] (Tankobon vol.2) for just two panels!

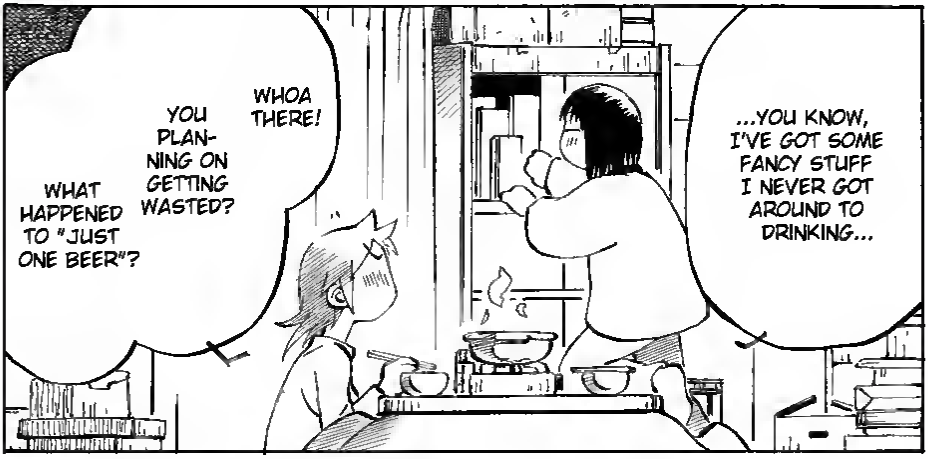

SHE LOVES BOOZE, BUT SHE'S A LIGHTWEIGHT.
KICCHAN'S AN OLD CHILDHOOD FRIEND AND DRINKING BUDDY.


WE DON'T REALLY NEED TO DRINK TO GET ALONG.
THE TWO OF US HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH.

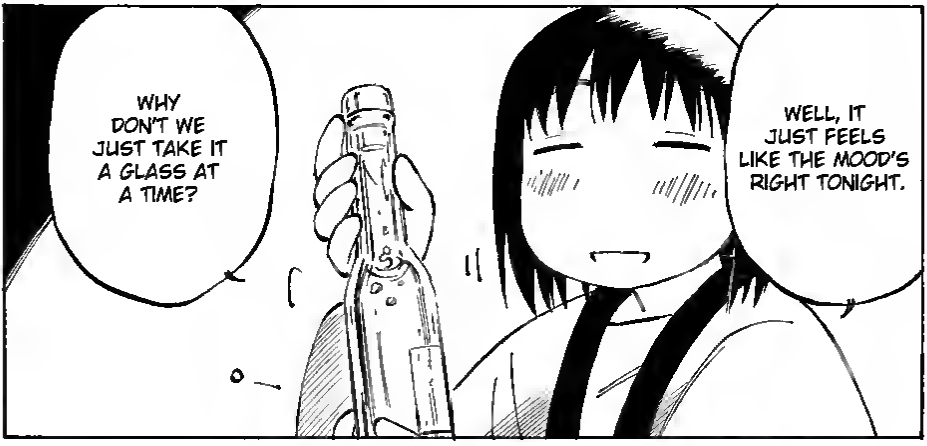
3

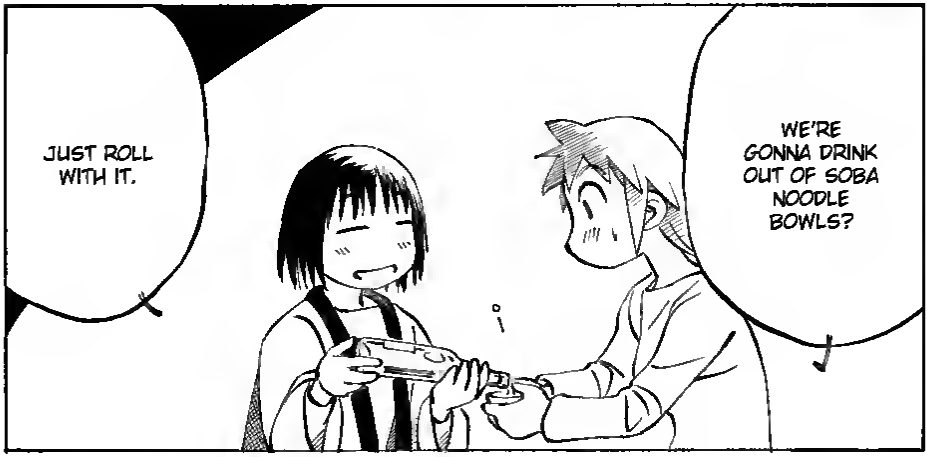

AND I'LL STAY OVERNIGHT.
TONIGHT WE'RE JUST MEETING FOR A CHAT.


THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU ALWAYS GET DRUNK RIGHT AWAY!
FEELS LIKE AGES SINCE WE LAST HAD A GOOD CHAT.


WHOA THERE!
YOU PLAN-NING ON GETTING WASTED?
WHAT HAPPENED TO "JUST ONE BEER"?
...YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT SOME FANCY STUFF I NEVER GOT AROUND TO DRINKING...

4


WHY DON'T WE JUST TAKE IT A GLASS AT A TIME?
WELL, IT JUST FEELS LIKE THE MOOD'S RIGHT TONIGHT.



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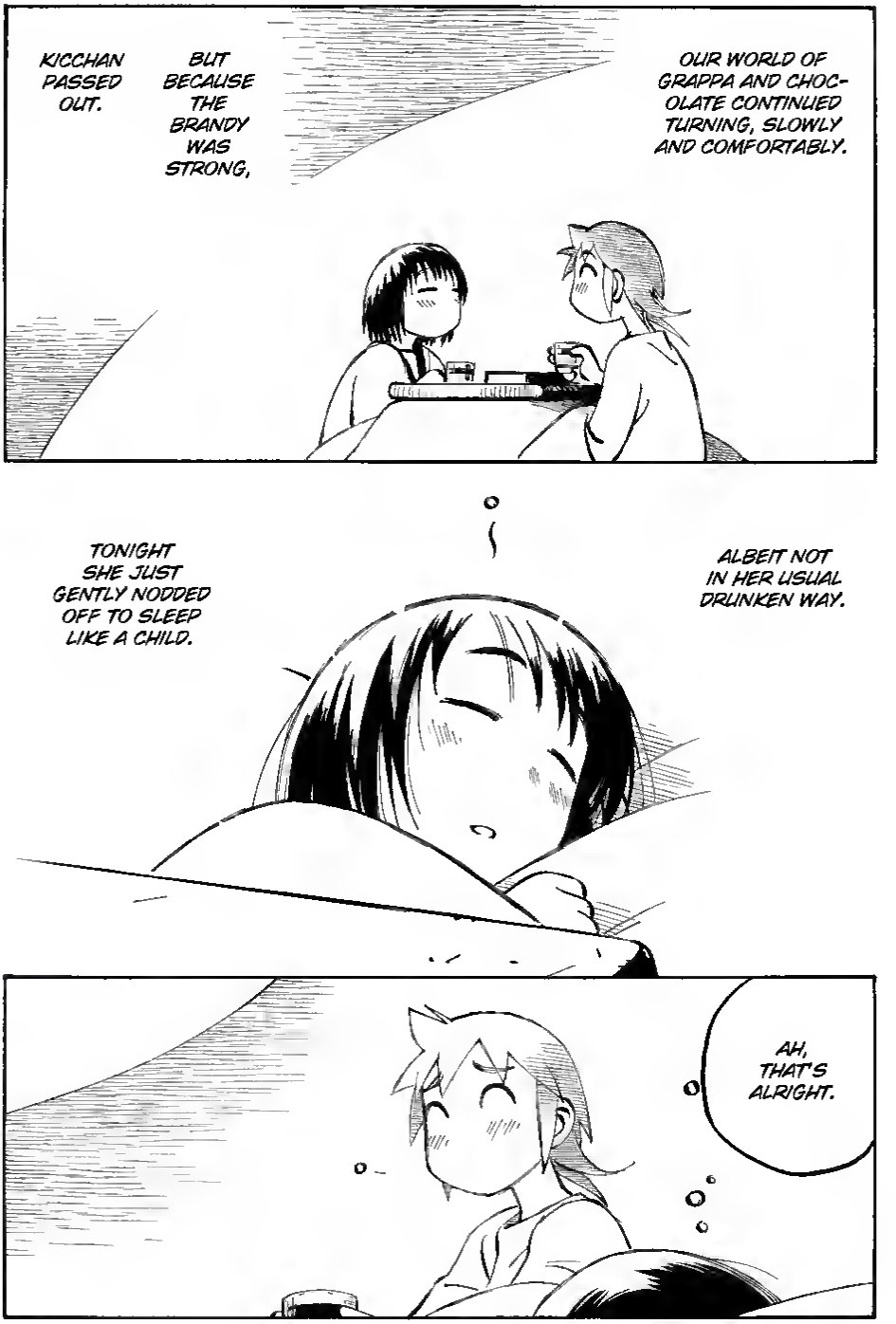
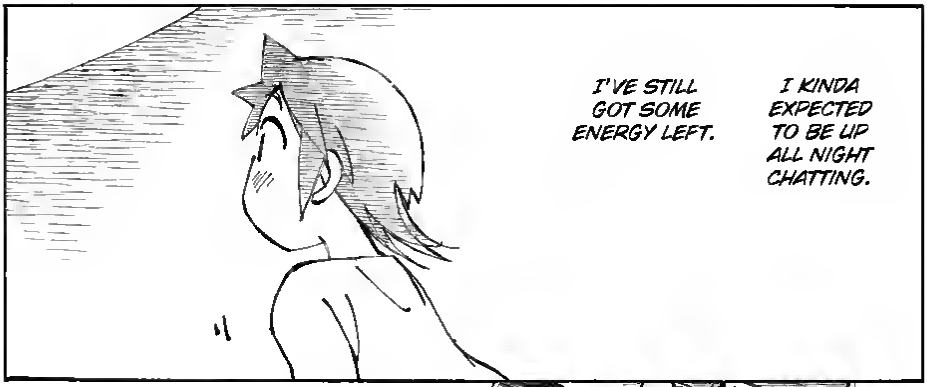
 *CHIIKAMA = PROCESSED CHEESE AND KAMABOKO (FISH PASTE), A CHEAP JUNK FOOD SNACK

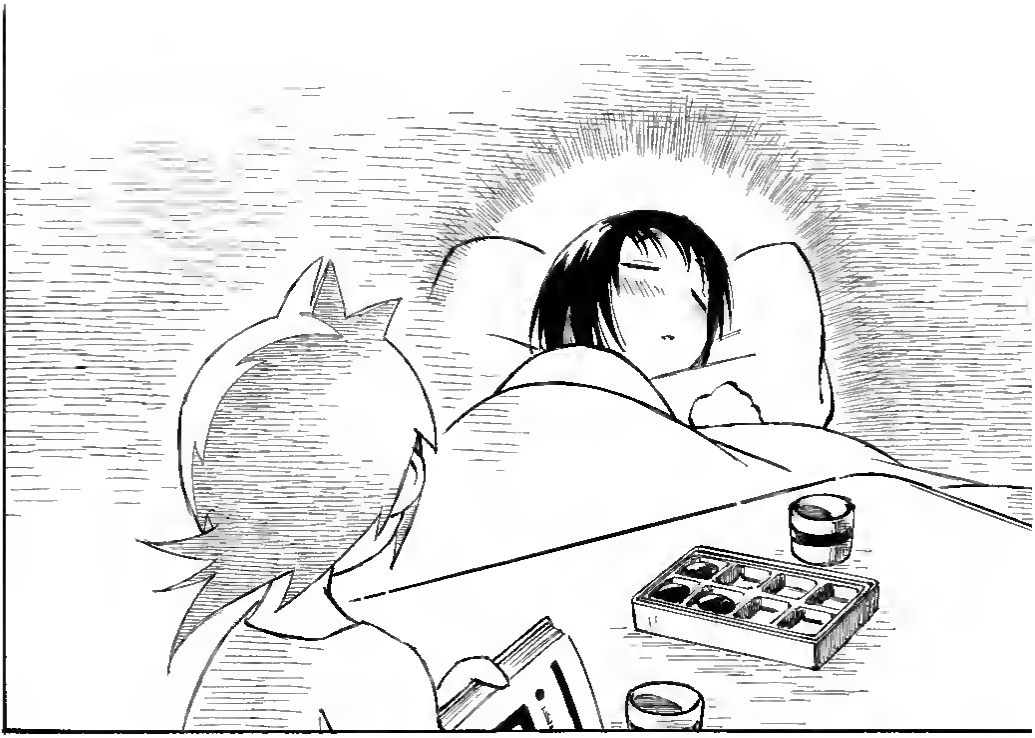

KICCHAN PASSED OUT.
BUT BECAUSE THE BRANDY WAS STRONG,
OUR WORLD OF GRAPPA AND CHOCOLATE CONTINUED TURNING, SLOWLY AND COMFORTABLY.
TONIGHT SHE JUST GENTLY NODDED OFF TO SLEEP LIKE A CHILD.
ALBEIT NOT IN HER USUAL DRUNKEN WAY.
AH, THAT'S ALRIGHT.


I'VE STILL GOT SOME ENERGY LEFT.
I KINDA EXPECTED TO BE UP ALL NIGHT CHATTING.

Native Dresses
Rum and Black Sugar Shochu
Old Tokyo Rivers - Bottom of the Sea
CAT PARK EDUCATIE
Lost at the Moon Lord
POLL FOSSILS
STILL,
SHE HAS ALL THESE CRAZY BOOKS IN HER LOUNGE.

BEAUTIFUL
SYNAPSIDS

7



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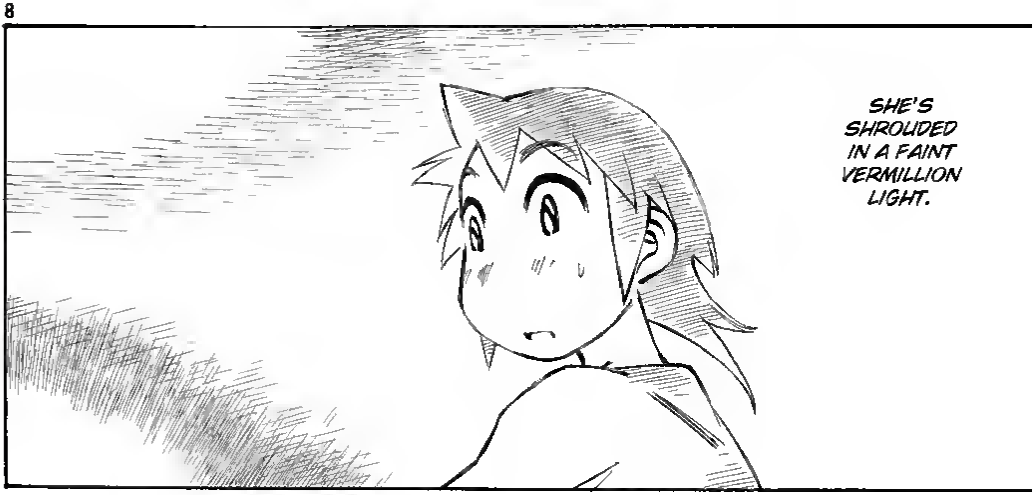
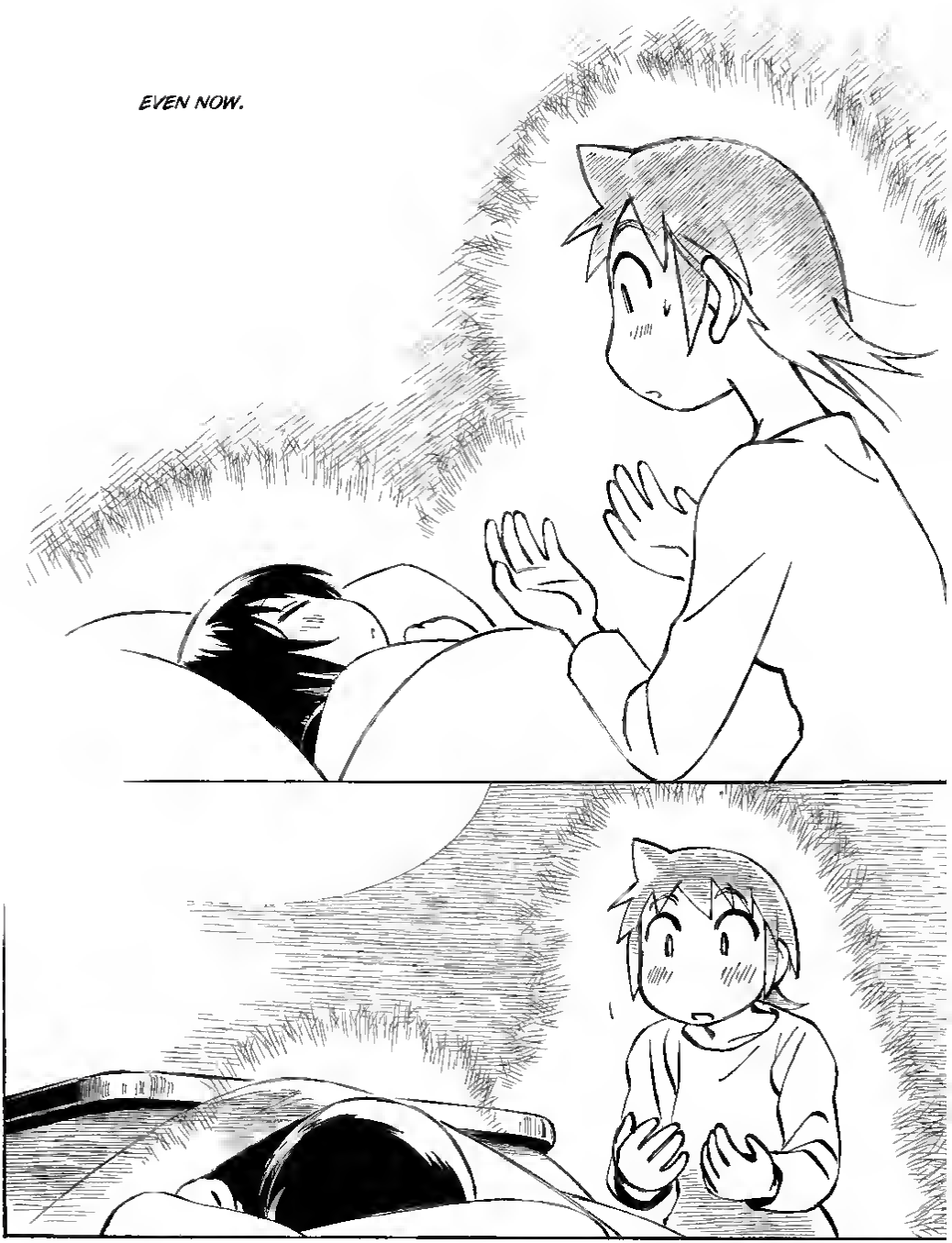
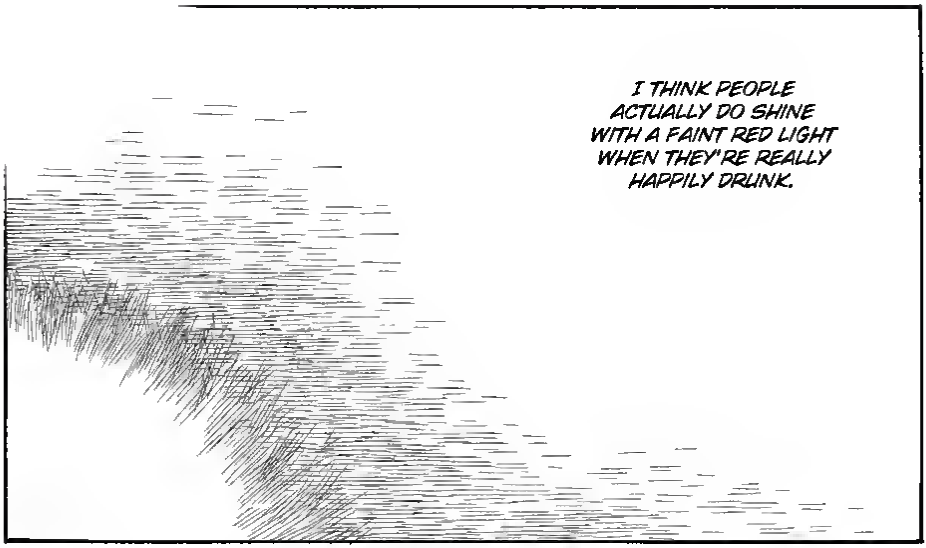
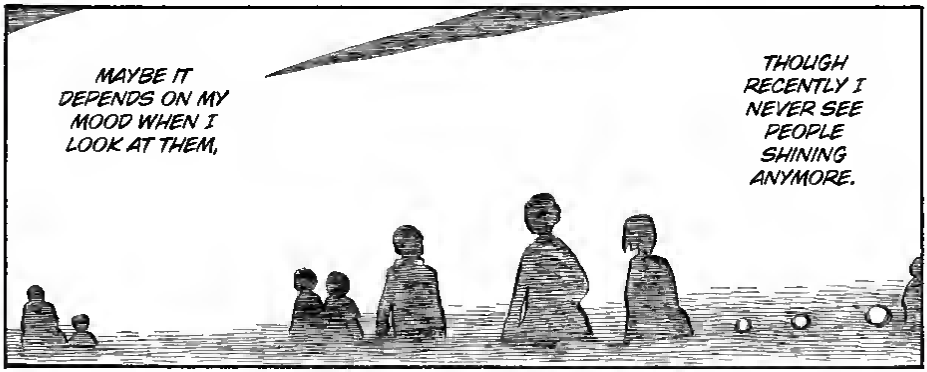


ONCE WE TURNED TWENTY, AND WERE FEELING MERRY AFTER A FEW DRINKS,
WAY BACK WHEN, SHE OFTEN SHONE LIKE THIS.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
ALL OF US SHONE LIKE THIS ON THE ROAD HOME.
EVEN ME.

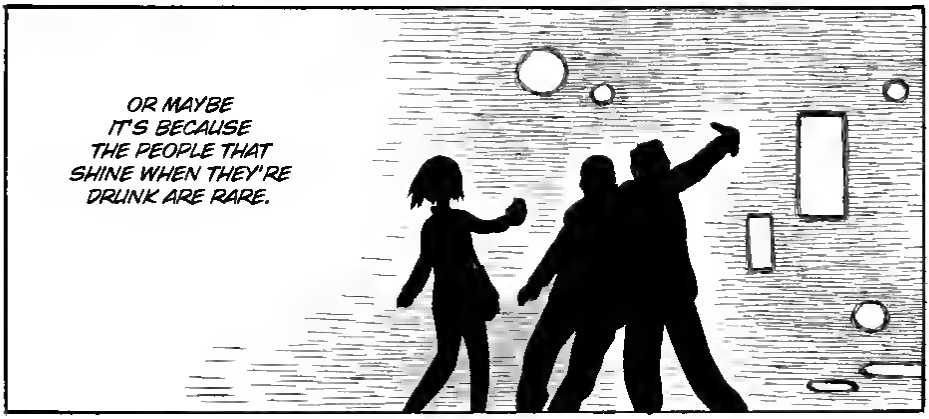
9

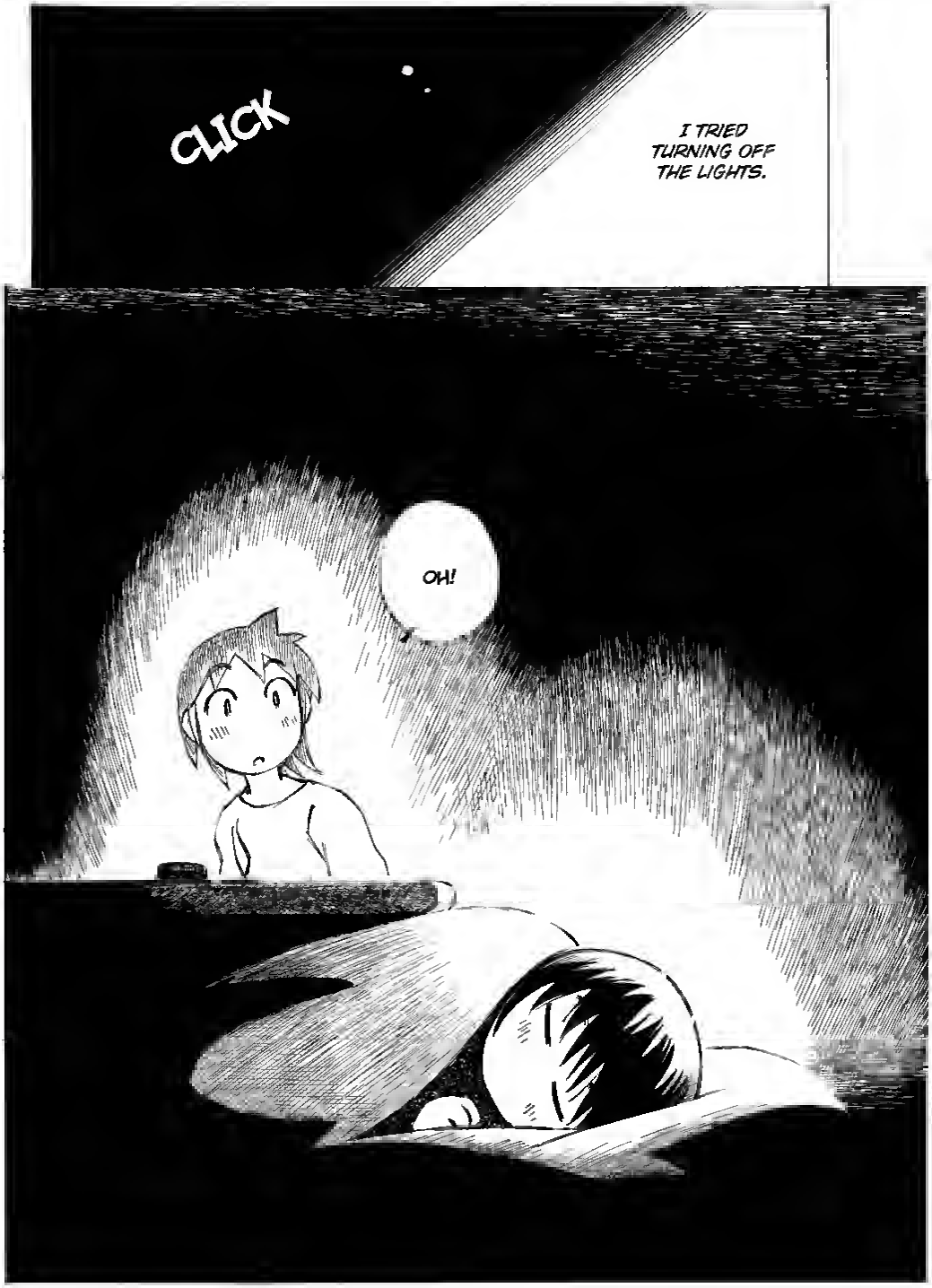

EVEN NOW.


I THINK PEOPLE ACTUALLY DO SHINE WITH A FAINT RED LIGHT WHEN THEY'RE REALLY HAPPILY DRUNK.

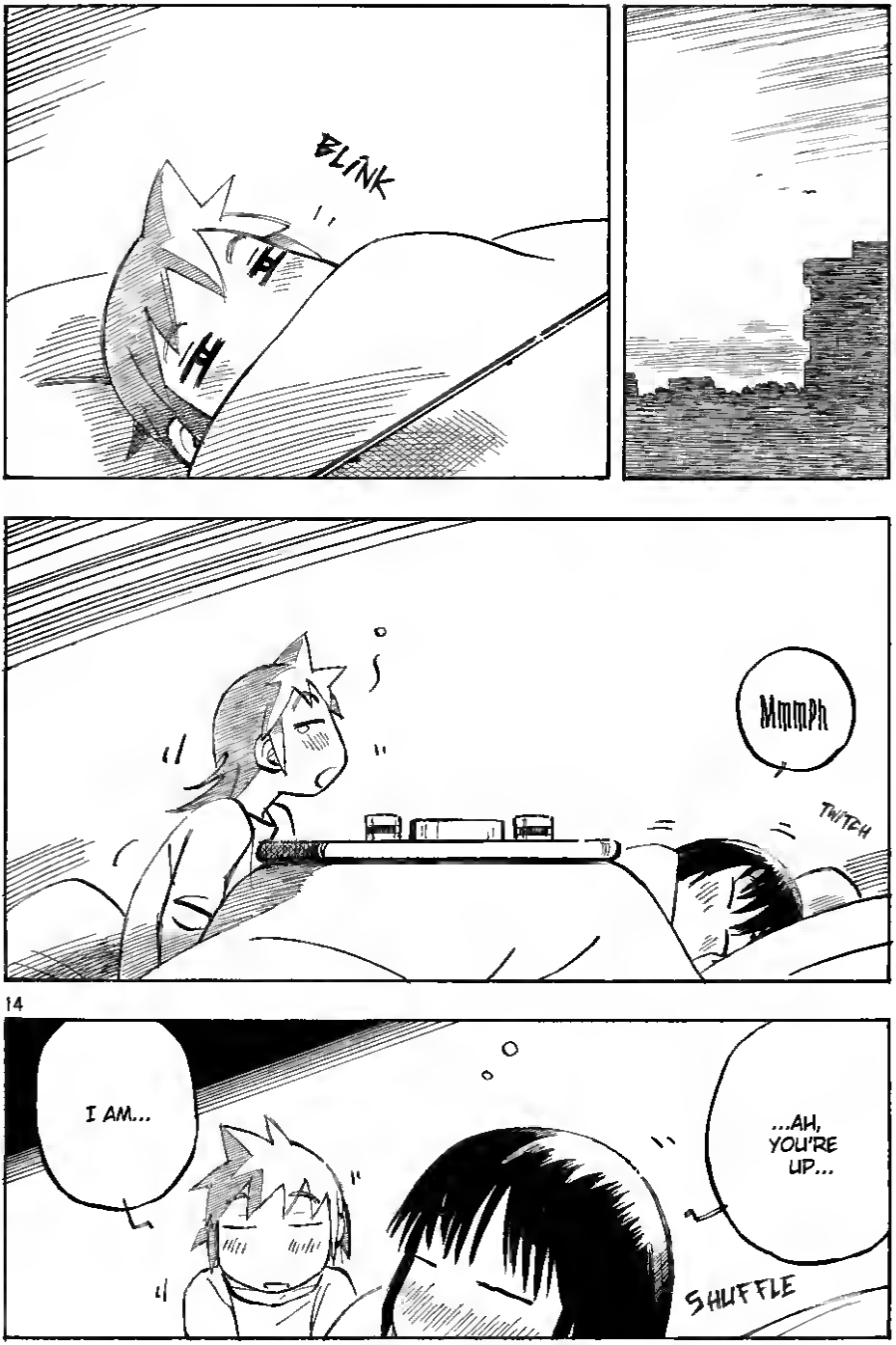

MAYBE IT DEPENDS ON MY MOOD WHEN I LOOK AT THEM,
THOUGH RECENTLY I NEVER SEE PEOPLE SHINING ANYMORE.

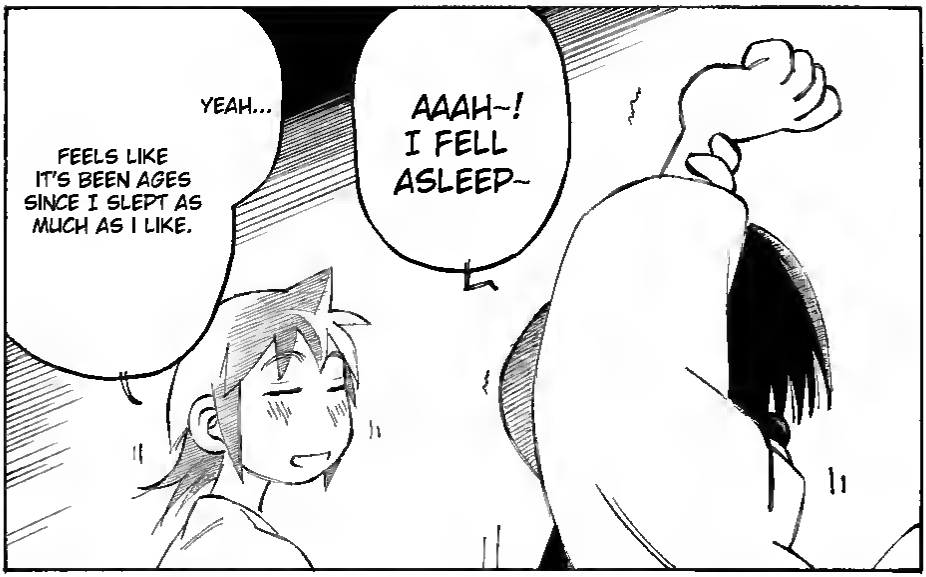
11


OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE PEOPLE THAT SHINE WHEN THEY'RE DRUNK ARE RARE.

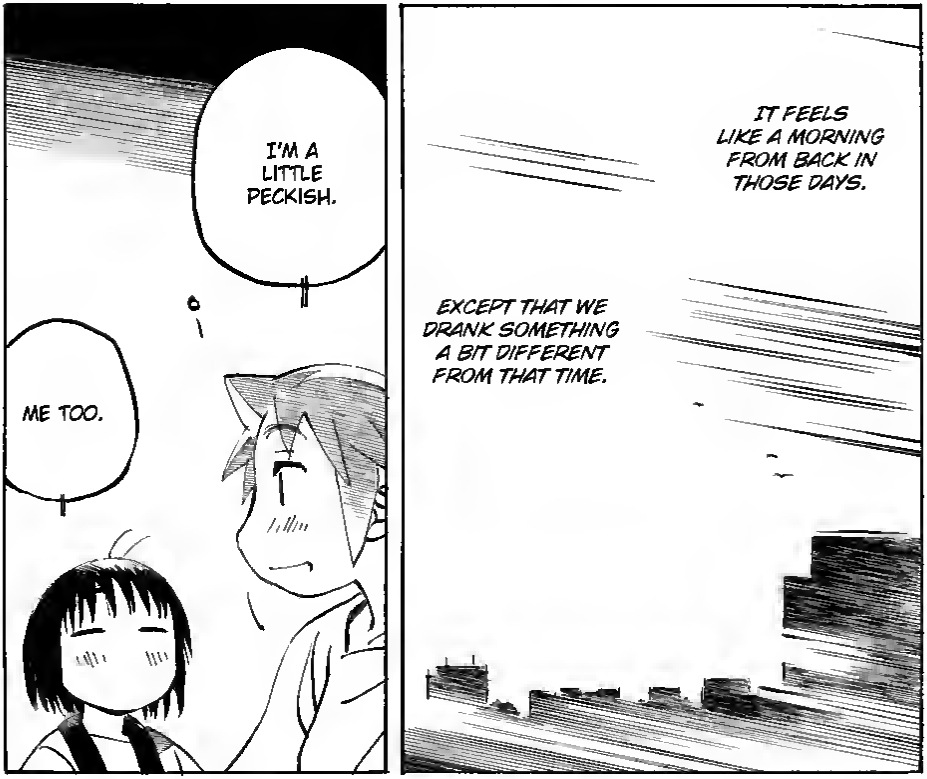

CLICK
I TRIED TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS.
OH!

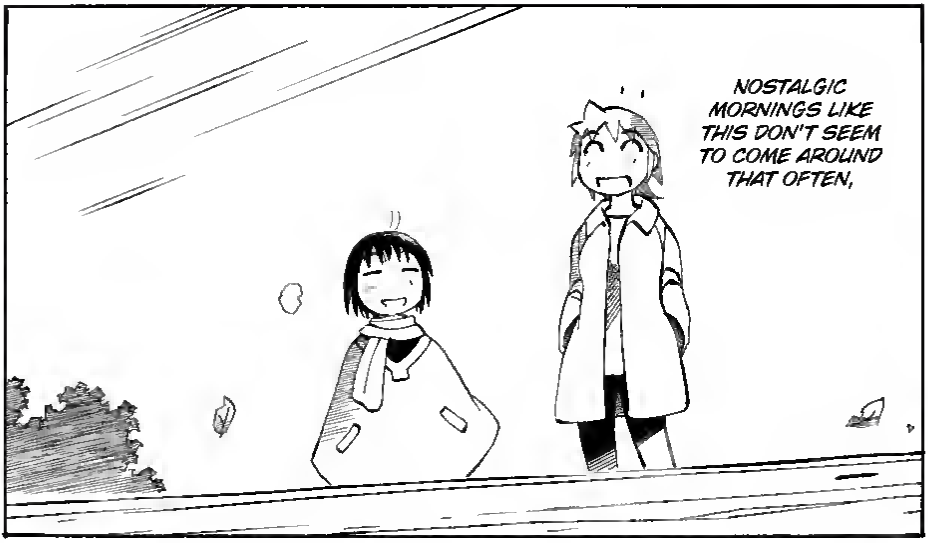
13


BLINK
MMMPH
TWITCH
14
I AM...
...AH, YOU'RE UP...
SHUFFLE


AAAH~! I FELL ASLEEP~
YEAH...
FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I SLEPT AS MUCH AS I LIKE.

15


I'M A LITTLE PECKISH.
ME TOO.
IT FEELS LIKE A MORNING FROM BACK IN THOSE DAYS.
EXCEPT THAT WE DRANK SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT FROM THAT TIME.



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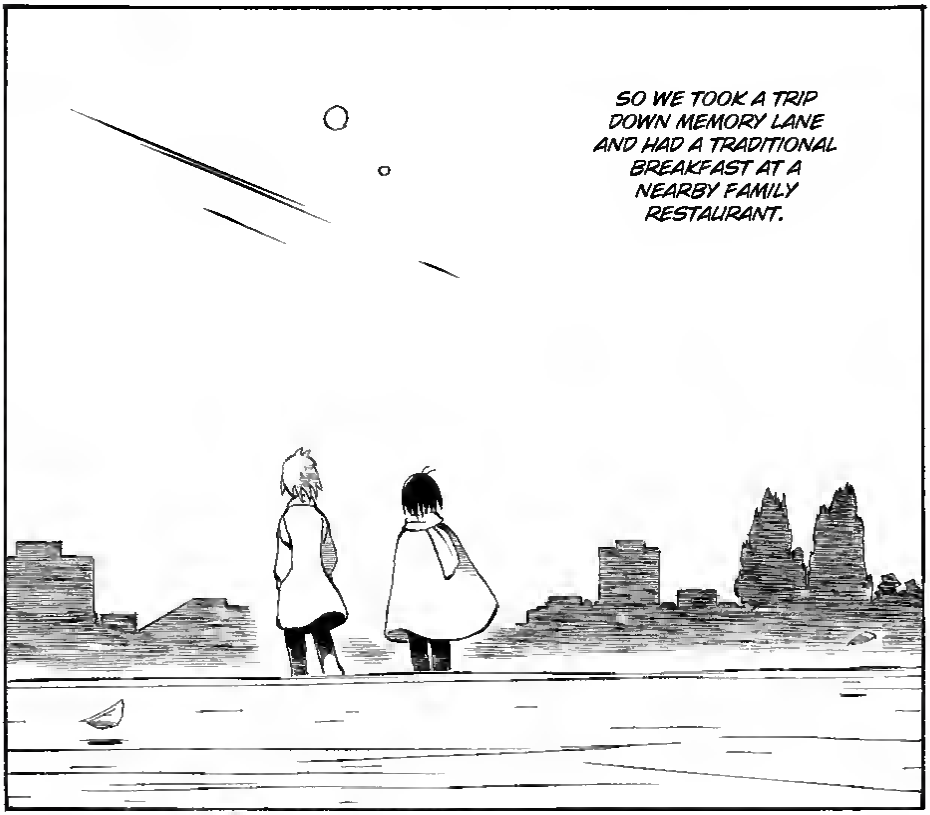

We ate a lot, we slept a lot. Spending time with a friend just like the old days is a priceless way to recharge!

NEXT TIME, YOU CAN SEE THINGS MORE CLEARLY IN WINTER.

Kotonoba Drive
Roselia Scanlations
Translator: tristanthorn
Proofreader: bashzestampeedo
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